

Glenda Wiles

From: James Green [jimabiff@bresnan.net]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 5:03 PM

To: Jim Reno; John Ostlund; Bill Kennedy; Bill Carey; commissioners Lake; Glenda Wiles; commissione Granite; Commissioners Mineral; Commissioners Anaconda-Deer Lodge; Commissioners Broadwater; Council Butte-silver bow; comission Carbon; commision Custer; commissioon Cascaade; commission Lewis-clark; commission Park; commission Musselshell; commission Missoula; commission Gallatin; commission stillwater; commission Sweetgrass; commission Powell

Subject: Fw: Train service

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

2110 Wingate Lane Billings, Montana 59102

**Dedicated to RETAINING, IMPROVING, AND INCREASING
RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE**

To: County Commissioners

Officers, staff

Recently our Association had a meeting in Helena to discuss restoration of the Southern Montana rail passenger route or segments thereof. Senate Bill 294 had a amendment added by Montana Senator Jon Tester that Amtrak would be required to do a study to determine the need. I had a talk with his office when I requested that the "segments" be added to his amendment, which it was. We believe that a Billings/Missoula corridor train or possibly a Billings/Spokane corridor train would be a great start with the thought of adding a Billings Shelby corridor train later. Then we would work on a Billings/Denver corridor train route. Passenger service east of Billings is also being considered knowing the number of coal and grain trains using this route for needed shipment. We are having the University of Montana do a survey to get a feel of the attitude of riders in these segments. Right now the survey is just of students, but when we get some money we would like to have a survey of the citizens in these corridors.

We would like to receive from you: What are your thoughts of these corridors? What do you believe would be the economic impact resulting from our plans? What are your thoughts on the costs to your citizens that would be saved by using these corridors as an alternate to other travel means? The Federal Government helps the air travel by \$13 Billion and the highway travel by \$30 Billion and just about \$2 Billion for Amtrak. Do you believe that more help from the Federal Government should be done, so this type of rail service can be a reality? Are you willing to extend your support to help us get this a reality by polling your members, the citizens in your area to give to us their opinions? Would you as a group pass a resolution supporting our efforts that we could send on to those in positions to help us more to attain our goals for the citizens of Montana?

3/18/2008

James Green, President

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James C. Green